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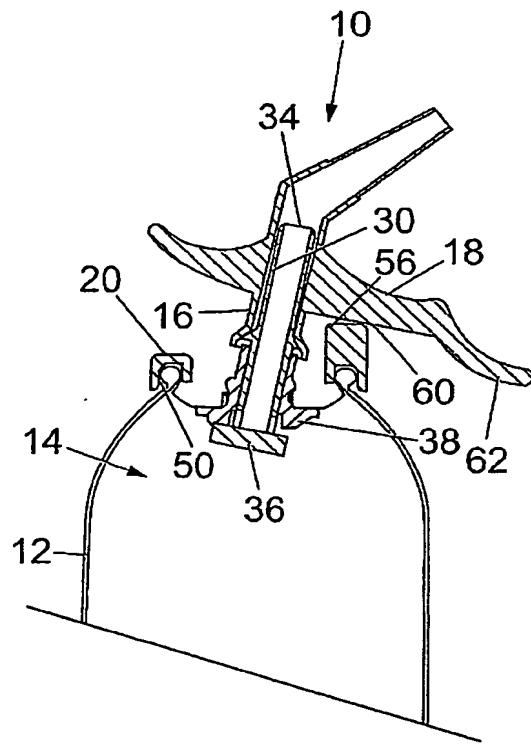
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(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING FLOW RATE FROM A VALVE DISPENSER



(57) Abstract: A valve assembly (10) for use with a dispensing apparatus comprises a valve (14), a lever (18) arranged to open the valve to dispense product, and variable spacer means (20) arranged to limit the travel of the lever by a variable amount according to the relative position of the lever and the variable spacer means. In one embodiment the valve (14) is a tilt valve including a valve stem (30), and the lever (18) is coupled to the valve stem. The variable spacer means (20) includes a plurality of spacer portions (52, 54, 56) of differing thickness, each spacer portion being arranged to limit the travel of the lever (18) by a predetermined amount. One spacer portion (52) may be arranged to allow a full range of travel of the lever so that by pressing the lever fully the valve is fully opened. Another spacer portion (56) may be arranged to allow a partial range of travel of the lever so that by pressing the lever fully the valve is opened to an intermediate flow setting. Further spacer portions (54) may be arranged to provide further intermediate flow settings.

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